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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Bolivia

SUBJECT PIR Split

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Date: ~~1 JUN 1978~~

By:

1. It is reported that the Bolivian Partido Izquierda Revolucionario (PIR) has split into two factions. One group, under the leadership of Jose Antonio Arze, is attempting to form a Bolivian Communist Party, while the other faction, under the direction of Ricardo Anaya, is opposed to this plan and is trying to keep the PIR separate from the Communist line.
2. The split came about after a meeting of the La Paz Secretariat of the PIR held on the night of 17 December ended in a riot. Anaya and his followers were badly beaten by Arze followers, and the headquarters of the party in La Paz were demolished during the fight.
3. This riot followed on the heels of another altercation which took place at a PIR meeting called on 8 December 1949 to hear a report of Jose Pereyra, a PIR youth leader, who recently returned from attending Communist youth meetings in Europe.
4. After Pereyra's talk, one of the new Department Committee members spoke at length demanding to know whether the PIR would definitely follow the Communist line. He also insisted on forming a coalition of the various groups opposing the government, such as the MNR, POR, and FSTMB. He thought that the PIR could make common cause with the MNR since both were anxious to drive the Yankee Imperialists from Bolivia. The speaker also attacked Anaya and Alfredo Arratia as traitors for not having permitted the PIR to take a more definite stand during the disturbances at Catavi in May 1949.
5. A spokesman for the Miraflores committee answered that his group was not in accord with the views thus stated, but he advised refraining from internal disagreements until after the municipal elections were past.
6. Sergio Almaraz spoke next stating that the Communists of Bolivia were not interested in the municipal elections, but were concerned with social revolution and mobilization of the masses. Alfredo Suarez supported these views, saying that the PIR had nothing to do with the municipal elections, and that those who thought in terms of such elections were nothing but opportunists who did not have a sufficiently broad understanding of Party aims. He called those who disagreed with him thieves, power seekers and liars.

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7. This name-calling caused an uproar which ended in fist fights. During the fracas, Almaraz and Suarez resigned from the new Departmental Committee and left the meeting, declaring that the PIR was not acting according to the Communist Party line. Rene Chavez Munoz, Secretary of Organization, was left in charge of the meeting.
8. In his speech during the early part of the 8 December meeting Pereyra told about the enthusiastic reception he and Victor Hugo Libera, outstanding PIR youth leader, got from members of the Communist Party in Paris. He told of lavish receptions given them and meetings which they attended with leaders of the international Communist movement. He did not give details of the meetings, and did not mention places, or dates or the names of the individuals attending.
9. Pereyra claimed that the International Communist Party, with its various committees and groups, is working like a machine. He stated that he had brought with him a large quantity of documents from Europe which he would deliver to the Political Bureau of the PIR. Pereyra pointed out that all the documents were addressed to Jose Antonio Arze.

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